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Human Development Report

Update on Human Development Report consultations

1. In January 2003, during its 57th session, the General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/57/264, in which it invited the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA to include in its annual work plan as from 2003 a separate agenda item on the *Human Development Report* (HDR). The aim of the resolution is to improve the consultation process with Member States in order to enhance the quality and accuracy of the HDR without compromising its editorial independence.

2. In line with that resolution, the actions undertaken to improve the quality of consultations with Member States and with the community of human development practitioners at large are detailed below. The present narrative covers the consultation that took place to choose the theme of HDR 2007; the informal Executive Board consultations carried on throughout the elaboration process; and some specific capacity-building efforts in the area of statistics to support countries and regions in enhancing the quality of their statistical work.

3. Following the usual practice, in 2006, the Human Development Report Office (HDRO) held a special network consultation to choose the theme for HDR 2007. The discussion, launched by the Director of HDRO, was hosted over the course of a month on the UNDP resident representatives' network (RRNet) and the Human Development Report network (HDRNet). HDRNet is free and open to all human development practitioners who wish to join. It encompasses about 1,200 subscribers around the world. Representatives of a few Member States expressed a willingness to participate in the network discussion to choose the theme of HDR 2007. Their names were added to HDRNet to allow them to follow the network discussion closely and cast their vote. The network discussion featured interesting contributions. The theme of climate change received the most support among those who contributed to the network discussion, and the topic selected for HDR 2007 was 'human development and climate change'. The network discussion was also helpful in identifying pertinent issues to be addressed by the report. In addition, a network discussion was launched on the concept note of the report. The insightful comments received helped frame the content of HDR 2007.

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4. During the elaboration process, HDRO held five informal consultations with the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA. The first took place on 15 December 2006, focusing on the concept note for the 2007 report. At the second, held on 8 March 2007, the chapter outline of HDR 2007 was presented and discussed. The third, a thematic consultation on statistics, took place on 13 April 2007, and focused on statistical capacity-building and support to countries and regions, an area where HDRO is stepping up its efforts. That consultation also constituted an opportunity to discuss the quality and reliability of the statistics used in the global HDR and, in general, the statistical work carried out by HDRO. The fourth informal consultation, which took place on May 2007, focused on the detailed chapter structure, which had undergone revisions following consultations within HDRO, with the expert advisory panel on the report, and with the UNDP readers' group. The fifth and final informal consultation covered the main messages of HDR 2007.

5. The consultations so far have been well attended by Executive Board members and observers. Several delegates thanked HDRO for organizing the consultations, which were characterized as very useful. Throughout the year delegates demonstrated a keen interest on the subject. They commended the work on climate change undertaken by the HDRO, and expressed strong support for the editorial independence of the report. HDRO benefited in particular from constructive comments made by the delegates on how to link climate change and human development. Those comments and suggestions have been taken into consideration in preparing HDR 2007.

6. HDRO is committed to the preparation of the HDR in a neutral, transparent manner and in full and effective consultation with Member States, with due regard to the use of resources and the impartial nature of the report.

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Country programmes and related matters

Extensions of country programmes
Note of the Administrator

Summary

The present note contains information on the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Burundi, Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritius, Niger and Nigeria; the second one-year extension of the country programme for Lebanon; the third one-year extension of the country programme for Timor-Leste; and the first two-year extension of the country programme for Botswana.

In accordance with established procedures, the Administrator approves the first one-year extension of country programmes. Requests for second or third one-year extensions of country programmes, as well as two-year extensions, are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

Elements of a decision

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the first extensions of the country programmes for Burundi, Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritius, Niger and Nigeria for a period of one year, from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008, as reported in table 1.

The Executive Board may wish to approve the third one-year extension of the country programme for Timor-Leste, from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008; the second one-year extension of the country programme for Lebanon, from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008, as presented in table 2; and the first two-year extension of the country programme for Botswana, from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2009, as presented in table 2.

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Annex

Table 1. Extensions of country programmes approved by the Administrator since January 2007

Country	Original CCF period	Year(s) proposed for new extension	Reason and explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Burundi	2005-2007	2008	To align the programming cycle with that of the new priority peace consolidation programme of the Integrated United Nations Office in Burundi. which covers the period 2007-2008, and to harmonize with the poverty reduction strategy paper.		
Republic of the Congo	2004-2007	2008	To align the UNDP programming period with the agreed United Nations programming cycle, scheduled to start in January 2009.		
Côte d'Ivoire	2003-2007	2008		The current security and political situation makes it impossible to harmonize the United Nations cycle before January 2009.	
Mauritius	2005-2007	2008			The country programme will be renewed in mid-2007. The Government has agreed to extend the programme so that lessons learned from the review can inform the new programme. Note that Mauritius is a 'category C' country office and is exempt from the UNDAF requirement.
Niger	2004-2007	2008	To align the UNDP programming period with the poverty reduction strategy (PRS), 2007 - 2011, and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), scheduled to start in January 2009.		
Nigeria	2003-2007	2008		Since the current PRS concludes in 2007 and general elections are scheduled for mid 2007, which could result in a shift in policy, the United Nations country team agreed with the Government that both the UNDAF and new country programmes would be deferred to 2009.	

Table 2. Extensions of country programmes for which Executive Board approval is sought

Country	Years covered by original CCF	Year(s) covered by extension already approved	Year(s) proposed for new extension	Extension		Reason and explanation		
				2nd one-year	Two-year	United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Other
Lebanon	2002-2006	2007	-	2008			The 2006 war and its aftermath have delayed the completion of the CCA and the 2008-2010 UNDAF. The two-year transition strategy, 2007-2008, will bridge towards a new CCA/UNDAF to cover the period 2009-2013 under new priorities, including the recovery priorities.	
Botswana	2003-2007	-	2008, 2009	-	2008, 2009			The Government of Botswana has changed the cycle of its development plan. The extension of the country programme is sought to permit alignment with the national development planning process and the new UNDAF (2010-2014) planning process.
Timor-Leste	2003-2005	2006-2007	2008				Given recent political developments and the prospect of elections in 2008, it would not be feasible to conduct a CCA/UNDAF exercise this year.	